



TENNESSEE  
**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0380

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Directors/Supervisors of Special Education  
Private School Special Education Supervisors  
Assessment Personnel

**FROM:** Ann Sanders  
Director of Assessment, Information and Research

**DATE:** July 31, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Special Education Disability Specific Eligibility Standards  
Assessment Manual Guidelines

The State Board of Education approved the *Eligibility Standards for Disabilities*, which became effective on July 1, 2002. Copies of the eligibility standards are located on the Division of Special Education's website at [www.state.tn.us/education/msped.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/education/msped.htm) for downloading. Initial training was provided at the Special Education Conference in March 2002 in Nashville. Additionally, in-depth training and support necessary to implement the revised eligibility standards in the high-incidence disability categories of Specific Learning Disabilities and Speech-Language Impairment was provided statewide during May and June 2002. All disability assessments and eligibility determinations made on or after July 1, 2002 must be aligned with the revised eligibility standards.

Working draft editions of the 'Guidelines' manuals for the following disabilities are presently undergoing final review and editing through this office:

1. Specific Learning Disabilities
2. Speech-Language Impairment
3. Developmental Delay
4. Visual Impairment
5. Deaf-Blindness

Each 'Guidelines' manual will be placed on the Special Education Website under 'Assessment' upon completion of editing. Other disability assessment 'Guidelines' manuals are in progress and will be placed on the web upon completion. If there is any assistance needed for the implementation of the revised eligibility standards please feel free to contact Ann Sanders at the toll-free Special Education telephone number: 1-888-212-3162.

cc: Joseph Fisher  
Regional Resource Coordinators